



PLACER COUNTY  
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**EDWARD N. BONNER**  
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

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## PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: Friday, October 19, 2007  
Date/Time of Occurrence: Friday, October 19, 2007  
Nature of Event: Placer Co. Elder Suicide on the Increase; Help Available  
Location of Call: Placer County  
Released by: Dena Erwin, PIO (530) 889-6901

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### **SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:**

Nationwide, there's an alarming trend of suicide being committed by those age 65 or older. In Placer County, the numbers are following that trend and the Sheriff's Department wants residents to know that help is available for this avoidable tragedy.

According to statistics compiled by the Sheriff's Coroner Division, nearly 25 percent of all suicides in Placer County are being committed by residents 65 years of age or older.

Because Placer County has a large elderly population, many services are available. Often times, though, people don't take advantage of the programs because they're afraid to ask for help.

"We want to help those who feel there is no help," said Sheriff-Coroner-Marshall Ed Bonner. "This is a preventable tragedy and we'd like to see more people take advantage of the many resources offered in Placer County."

"Suicide is always a tragedy", said Maureen Bauman, Mental Health Director in Placer County, who believes support is the answer. "Help is available in Placer County. Information about resources and support is one of our best preventative tools."

Those resources include the county's 24-hour response line at 1-888-886-5401 or 916-787-8860; suicide hot lines in Auburn, 530-885-2300; Lincoln, 916-645-8866; and Roseville, 916-773-3111, or the national hotline at 1-800-784-2433.

In addition to suicide hotline information, people often most need help with specific problems that can seem overwhelming. Here are some ways for seniors – or their friends and family -- to find answers:

Seniors First/Senior Link: 1-800-9222 or 1-530-889-9500, serves Placer County with a variety of resources; Placer County's Senior Peer Counseling Program, 916-787-8856, where seniors can call directly and ask for assistance or a family member or neighbor can call on their behalf. Seniors are matched with one of 35 senior peer counselors. The matches are based on personality, life experience, presenting issue, and location; and Placer County Network of Care, the county's Web-based resource directory at <http://placer.networkofcare.org>.